

This newsletter is best read over smashed Thanksgiving sandwiches - turkey, tofurky or otherwise. Enjoy!

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# **Natick Sustainability** **Newsletter**

We have so much to be thankful for.



We have a LOT of exciting updates this month... but first, a short, sentimental note from your pie-loving author:

On November 12, I celebrated my one year anniversary as Natick's Sustainability Coordinator. It's been an amazing first year and this Thanksgiving all I can think about is how thankful I am for this opportunity. Working in my hometown, on the issues I'm passionate about, in a community that cares is such a blessing and I am incredibly grateful to you – "the townspeople" – for trusting me with this important charge.

I'm also in awe of the passion and enthusiasm you – the 888 readers of this very newsletter – bring to the table each day. I've had the good fortune to volunteer with many of you: on trail clean ups, recycling efforts, solar programs, compost and more. If there is something I can do to advance an issue you're working on, please let me know. I would love to help.

THANK YOU! – Jillian

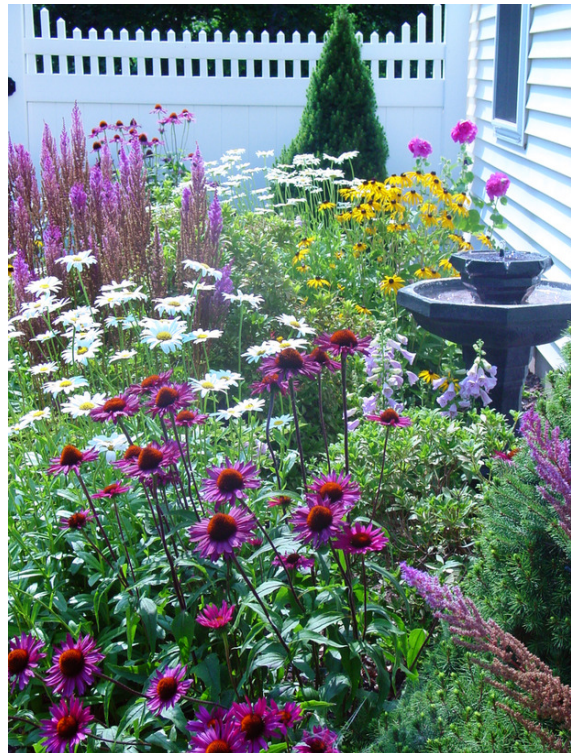
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## How does your garden grow?

We are looking for organic gardens of all sizes in Natick and surrounding towns to feature in the 2016 Bacon Free Library's biannual garden tour. Do you have a green thumb and a great garden? Or know someone who does? Please [email us](#) to participate.

The tour is going organic this year to help educate residents about the risks of pesticides, and the Town's efforts to pilot organic turf care at the Bacon Free Library, Memorial Soccer Field and John J. Lane Park.

We are also hosting a free organic training for local lawn care companies with funds from the [Toxics Use](#)



[Reduction Institute](#) and [Beyond Pesticides](#). Please invite your lawn service to [participate here](#).



## Never miss your recycling day again!

Our tech-savvy [DPW](#) just launched [My Waste](#): an app to help residents keep tabs on their recycling and trash pickup schedules. The app is personalized to your neighborhood and can be customized to include alerts when the collection schedule changes due to weather or holidays. Download My Waste [here](#) (and while you're at it – check out [Commonwealth Connect](#), the DPW's other app to report potholes, road hazards and other problems).

## Grateful for grants!

Good news! We heard back from the state and are receiving a variety of grants to support the curbside composting pilot and other waste diversion initiatives. We were awarded:

- \$20,500 for wheeled food waste carts and pilot funding
- \$15,000 in Recycling Dividends
- \$1,500 for small scale recycling



initiatives

- \$7,500 towards a cardboard compactor
- \$30,400 for a new mattress recycling program

These grants are important wins as we work toward launching our curbside composting pilot this spring. Hooray!



## Electricity rates

Are you participating in the Natick Community Choice Electricity Program? Eversource recently announced its new Basic Service rate of 10.804 cents/kWh effective January 1, 2016. Community Choice participants currently pay 13.32 cents/kWh.

To mitigate the impact of price volatility and to allow Natick customers to secure a price that is closer to the new market rate, the Town is in the process of negotiating options with our supplier, ConEdison Solutions. We expect to report recommendations to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting on Monday, December 7.

## Enjoy the holiday weekend!

We hope you [#optoutside](#) and take a hike on some of Natick's beautiful trails.



Are you a social butterfly? Check us out on Facebook at [Sustainable Natick](#). We post frequent updates and fun facts about sustainability issues. See you there!

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